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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER

of

HEALTH

for the year

1964



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Chairman of the Council: Councillor J. F. CASSIDY, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor R. H. FISHER

Councillors: C. E. BOWDEN, F. M. L. BOWMAN,
E. W. EDWARDS, G. E. LUMB, J. F. CASSIDY, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

D. H. WALDRON, O.B.E., M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M., & H., COL.I.M.S. (RETD.)

(The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., the Urban Districts of Newport Pagnell and Wolverton, the Rural Districts of Buckingham, Newport Pagnell and Winslow, Area M.O. for North Bucks and Divisional M.O. for the North Bucks Division and the Buckingham and Winslow District.)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

R. W. LASLETT, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. F. SMITHIE, O.B.E., M.I.MUN.E., F.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

A. JAMES, M.A.P.H.I.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

April 24th, 1965

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Ramsbotham and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1964.

The Birth Rate is up on the previous year once more, and is now six points higher than that for the country as a whole. We hope they will all make good citizens.

The Death Rate still remains at a satisfactory low level. It is the lowest of the 20 County Districts. Of the 145 deaths, Heart and Allied Diseases and Cancer accounted for 106.

The Infantile Mortality Rate shows a satisfactory drop from 19.9 for 1963 to 6 for 1964.

From these statistics it is apparent that Bletchley is a healthy place to live in!

Again I want to record another year of cordial co-operation with your Clerk, Mr. Hudson, your Surveyor, Mr. Smithie and their staffs. I should also like to welcome Mr. James, who has now taken over as Chief Public Health Inspector of the Health Department.

I am sorry to say that this is my last Annual Report to you. After 18 years in your service, Sir, I have always been impressed by the keen interest your Council has shown in Public Health.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1963	1964
Area (in acres)	4459	4459
Population	19390	20610
Number of Inhabited Houses	5869	6069
Rateable Value (1st April)	£935051	£991202
Rate per £1	9/10	10/-
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£4050	£4300

BIRTHS :

Legitimate	Males	223	247
	Females	209	234
Illegitimate	Males	11	6
	Females	9	12
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population ...		23.3	24.2
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—			
Bucks County		19.2	20.1
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population—			
England and Wales		18.2	18.4
Still Births	Males	1	5
	Females	7	4

DEATHS :

	Males	80	77
	Females	57	68
Death Rate per 1,000 Population ...		7.1	7.0
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—			
Bucks County		9.9	8.7
Death Rate per 1,000 Population—			
England and Wales		12.2	11.3
Maternal Mortality	Nil		Nil
Maternal Mortality—Bucks County ...	0.28		0.37

INFANTILE MORTALITY :

	1963	1964
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births	19.9	6.0
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births Bucks County ...	17.7	16.7
Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Live Births England & Wales	20.9	20.0

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	1963			1964		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	0	1	0	0	0
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	14	13	27	17	12	29
Leukaemia	0	2	2	0	0	0
Diabetes	0	0	0	0	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	10	7	17	9	13	22
Heart Disease	23	18	41	25	25	50
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	3	7	1	4	5
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	7	4	11	2	3	5
Bronchitis	10	1	11	7	0	7
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	0	0	0	1	0	1
Digestive Diseases	0	1	1	1	1	2
Nephritis	0	1	1	0	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	0	0	0	2	0	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	0	0	0	0	0	0
Accidents	3	2	5	4	1	5
Suicide	1	0	1	3	1	4
All Other Causes	7	5	12	5	6	11
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	80	57	137	77	68	145

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

1. LABORATORY SERVICES

The bacteriological work of the District has been carried out by the Public Health Laboratories at Bedford and Aylesbury. Samples of Sewage for chemical analysis are sent to London.

2. AMBULANCE SERVICES

These services, which are radio controlled, are administered by the County Council.

One main Station is maintained at Bletchley with substations at Buckingham, Wolverton and Newport Pagnell.

Vehicles at the Bletchley Station consist of five Ambulances, five Dual Purpose Vehicles, two coaches and one Land Rover.

They have dealt satisfactorily with all general cases, including accidents.

3. HOME NURSING

Five District Nurse/Midwives are now functioning in the area. As in previous years they carried on their very excellent and noble work.

4. CLINICS

(a) *Child Welfare*

The two clinics in the town, at Whalley Drive and the Methodist Hall, Bletchley Road, carried on providing an essential service for a town that is fast expanding. Very soon another clinic must be established, perhaps more than one, but I understand that the County Health Department have this in mind and are planning accordingly.

The total number of children's attendances during the year was 6409.

Of course I must not forget the annual tribute to the ladies of the voluntary committees who give up so much of their spare time to this work.

(b) *Child Guidance Clinic*

This clinic; which is housed in the Whalley Drive Clinic, is now fully staffed with Consultant Psychiatrist, Educational Psychologist and Psychiatric Social Worker.

(c) *Dental Clinic*

A modern up to date clinic with two surgeries is housed in the Whalley Drive Clinic and is doing excellent work amongst the school children.

5. HEALTH VISITING

Six whole time visitors have been appointed to cover Bletchley and surrounding area, and are doing excellent work for both old and young.

6. WELFARE/MENTAL HEALTH

Two officers cover Bletchley and surrounding areas and are doing very good work amongst the Mentally Handicapped and the Aged.

7. CARE OF THE BLIND

There is a qualified Home Teacher working in the area who visits homes for instruction in Braille, handicrafts and occupational interests.

8. CARE AND AFTER CARE OF THE SICK

Two County Medical Social Workers have been appointed to the area who arrange for the care and after care of persons discharged from Hospital and others who are ill at home, particularly those who are handicapped by long-term illnesses and disabilities.

9. SPEECH THERAPY

A qualified Speech Therapist attends weekly and is doing very good work among school children.

10. HOME HELP SERVICE

This service is doing excellent work particularly amongst the aged and chronic sick. One hundred and ninety-nine cases were helped during the year.

11. DIAGNOSTIC AND OUT PATIENT CLINIC

This Clinic is proving a great boon to the town and has saved many weary journeys to out patient departments at Aylesbury and elsewhere.

The clinic is attended by Specialists in: Ear, Nose and Throat, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Chest Diseases, Orthopaedic Surgery, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Paediatrics and Psychiatry.

12. MATERNITY HOSPITAL

I had hoped to report that the foundations had been laid, and progress was being made in the actual building.

No practical evidence exists of any work on the ground, which is very disappointing, in view of the fact that I first reported to you the necessity for such a hospital in 1947.

However, I now understand that work is definitely going to be started in 1966.

13. HOSPITALS

The following hospitals served the area :—

Royal Bucks Hospital
Tindal General Hospital
Stoke Mandeville Hospital
Northampton General Hospital
Bedford General Hospital
London Hospitals
St. John's Hospital
Creaton Sanatorium

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

A. WATER

The Bucks Water Board have reported the following information :

The quality and quantity of the supply to the district was maintained throughout the year.

Results of bacteriological samples examined were as follows :

Sandhouse Pumping Station	Raw Water	29
	Treated Water	26
Bletchley — Consumers' Taps		28

Three samples of raw water showed small numbers of coliform organisms but none yielded E.Coli. Samples of treated water were all satisfactory.

The coliform organisms in the raw water were probably due to the entrance of birds into the houses over the well heads and these were made bird-proof.

The fluoride content was estimated as being less than 0.1 parts per million.

A typical chemical analysis was as follows :

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Appearance	Clear	Colour	Less than 5
pH Value	7.7	Turbidity	Less than 1

CHEMICAL EXAMINATION

	<i>Parts per million</i>		
Ammonia Nitrogen		Carbonate Hardness	180
		Non-Carbonate Hardness	20
	Very slight trace	Total Hardness	200
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nil	Total Solids	250
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Calcium, as Ca	71
Nitrate Nitrogen	Nil	Magnesium as Mg	5
O ₂ absorbed from		Sulphate as SO ₄	38
permanganate	Nil	Chloride as Cl	17
Free CO ₂	4	Iron as Fe	0.20
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	180	Residual Chlorine	0.1

B. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

A few houses, mainly farms, remain unconnected to the main drainage system and towards the end of the year arrangements were being made to join the six houses with cesspits in Drayton Road, to the system.

Samples of the effluent are taken regularly at the sewage disposal works, where, although it has continued to function reasonably satisfactorily, a decision on future extensions cannot now be long delayed.

C. RIVERS AND STREAMS

Inspections are made of the few watercourses and ditches in the district. Pollution of a stream occurred as the result of the overflowing of a blocked sewer. The matter was rectified on clearing the sewer.

Complaints were lodged in September by the Great Ouse River Board and local angling associations, that pollution of the River Ousel had taken place resulting in a large loss of fish life. Although investigations were carried out, the cause was never established.

D. PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly refuse collection was continued during the year, but towards the end, consideration was being given towards adding another large capacity closed vehicle to the existing fleet of two.

Controlled tipping at the Salden Wood site had to be discontinued in June owing to the expiry of the lease on the access road and a dispute with the owner regarding renewal. The Council decided to proceed by way of a Compulsory Purchase Order for the acquisition of the road and an Inquiry was held in December.

Temporary arrangements for disposal were carried out at the former Saffron Gardens site. This continued to the end of the year whilst a new site was being prepared at Rammamere Farm in the Wing Rural District.

E. SWIMMING POOL

A Learners' pool was added to the existing facilities and brought into use at the beginning of the season. Water is supplied to both pools from the mains and is subjected to a chlorination treatment. Complete recirculation of the water takes place about every eight hours.

Attendance figures for the season, mid-May to mid-September, were 36,775, an increase of 14,767 above those of the previous year. This increase would be accounted for mainly by the exceptionally good weather enjoyed throughout the season, partly by the new pool and partly by the steadily increasing population.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH

INSPECTOR, MR. J. F. SMITHIE

GENERAL

The expansion of the town continued to be the main work of the surveying and engineering staff.

The Public Health duties as set out below were carried out by the Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. A. James.

Main items of interest affecting the work were the new Meat Inspection Regulations, registrations of offices and shops and the national effect of the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak.

Procedure was established whereby plans submitted for byelaw purposes are also examined in respect of those matters relating to Public Health, i.e., Food Hygiene Regulations, Factories Act, Petroleum Acts, Clean Air Act and Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Any discrepancies noted were pointed out to the architects concerned and advice given on avoiding possible contraventions.

The beginning of December saw the setting up of a separate Public Health Department under Mr. James following his appointment as Chief Public Health Inspector.

The work of Standard Grant procedure was passed to the new Department.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Public Health and Housing	Refuse, etc.	...	...	57
Acts 557	Rodent control	...	...	29
Food and Drugs Act ... 263	Infectious disease	...	...	22
Food Inspection 41	Petroleum Acts	...	...	146
Butchers' premises ... 15	Offices, Shops and Railway			
Slaughterhouse 117	Premises Act	...	...	213
Ice-cream premises ... 33	Standard Grants	...	...	6
Factories Act 57	Interviews	...	...	32
TOTAL 1,588				

HOUSING

The Bletchley (Duncombe Street) Clearance Order, 1963 involving 10 houses was confirmed in June by the Minister of Housing and Local Government and only three remained occupied by the end of the year.

Inspections were carried out on other individual unfit houses and nine Demolition Orders were made.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING INSPECTIONS

Total number of inspections and revisits under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	557
Houses not in all respects fit where notices were served	...						12
Houses rendered fit by informal action	...	...	...	...			8
Houses under Demolition Orders, vacant and awaiting demolition	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Houses under Demolition Order, still occupied	...	...					9
Houses Demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

Houses occupied by certain immigrant workers had to be repeatedly visited in an effort to keep check on overcrowding and also in respect of misuse of dustbins.

Two hundred and sixty-one new Council dwellings and 224 private dwellings were completed during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. TYPES AND NUMBERS OF FOOD PREMISES

Butchers	...	...	...	14	General Food Shops	...	51
Fish Shops	...	...	...	6	Cafes	...	7
Bakeries	...	...	...	2	Public Houses	...	22

2. Number of registered premises (ice-cream, food preparations, etc.)
51

3. Food inspected and condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 9,992 lb. and was mainly disposed of by tipping at the Council's site with other refuse.

Four hundred and sixty-nine visits and inspections were made to all types of food premises. Approximately 120 of these visits were made in a little over two days at the beginning of June at the time of

the Aberdeen Typhoid outbreak, and was in accordance with advice received from the Minister of Health relating to tins of corned beef. Only one consignment of the suspected tins was found and the owner was advised to return them to his supplier. Further visits had to be made later in the month when notification was received of other suspect tins.

4. ICE-CREAM

Inspections were carried out from time to time on premises and mobile vehicles. Thirty samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Bedford for bacteriological examination. The samples were graded as shown below.

Grade 1	..	..	...	22	Grade 3	...	...	...	3
Grade 2	...	...	...	5	Grade 4	...	...	...	Nil

5. FOOD HYGIENE

The reports of the Aberdeen typhoid outbreak were given wide coverage in the national press and had the effect for a time of making the public and shop keepers more aware of food hygiene.

However, some shops slipped back into their old ways of giving hygiene a place of secondary import.

Such premises may outwardly present a good appearance to the public, but the attitude can usually be recognised when seeing the untidy state of the rear premises.

Two isolated cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, but the causes were never established.

Eight food samples were taken for bacteriological examination, no food poisoning organisms were found.

The new poultry packaging factory after overcoming various problems got into full swing during the year, their production being gradually increased until a throughput of some 10,000 birds a day was reached. The birds are mainly of the broiler type and arrangements are made for the daily removal from the factory of feathers and offal.

6. MEAT

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, which came into force on the 1st October the previous year made it the responsibility of the local authority to ensure that all meat slaughtered within its district was inspected.

One hundred per cent inspection was achieved at the small private slaughterhouse that is licensed, a local veterinary surgeon being engaged to stand in at holiday periods.

Methods of the detailed inspection of the carcasses were extended and it was made obligatory upon the inspector, on passing as fit any carcass, to mark it with his personal stamp.

The Regulations also provided the power to local authorities to make charges for inspection and the Council decided to apply the maximum rates, viz :

2/6d. per bovine animal
 9d. per calf or pig
 6d. per sheep, lamb or goat

The amount which accrued from the year's inspections, was, however, largely offset by the necessary fees paid for the veterinary surgeon's services.

Four hundred and sixty-seven carcasses were inspected during the course of 117 visits to the slaughterhouse.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number slaughtered	75	—	1	267	125
Number inspected ...	75	—	1	267	125
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	12	—	—	2	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with di- sease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	16	—	—	0.75	5
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i> Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis ...	—	—	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis.</i> Carcasses of which some part or or- gan was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

A complaint was received from a clothing factory that at certain times, grit and dust was penetrating into the factory and soiling various garments. It was discovered that the cause of the nuisance was partly burnt wood particles emanating from the chimney of a factory opposite.

Discussions took place with the owners of the latter factory where it was discovered that the main fuel burnt in the boiler furnace consisted of wood waste and sawdust.

The firm decided to undertake investigations into methods of improving combustion.

No improvement had been made by the end of the year and the manager was warned of the possibility of action being taken for contravention of the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958.

Other complaints received were mainly in respect of nuisances from the burning of household and garden refuse, a practice which is prevalent in the district.

Householders could try to arrange the burning of their household refuse on the domestic fire. Garden refuse could be either composted or dried so that it will burn with as much flame as possible and so reduce the usual great volumes of objectionable smoke.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act, designed to regulate those provisions relating to the health, welfare, and safety of employed persons made its start by requiring employers to register their premises and number of employees with the administering authority during the period 1st May to the 31st July.

The administering authority for the premises falling within the scope of the Act and attached to factories is H.M. Factory Inspectorate and for all others in the district, the Council.

Registrations came in very slowly and towards the end of the period and afterwards it was found necessary to visit all those premises which might come under the Act. Of the 213 visits made, some were to give advice, but the majority were in connection with registration. No general inspections were carried out.

Regulations and Orders were published during the year relating to Sanitary Accommodation, Washing Facilities, First Aid Requirements, Prescribed Dangerous Machinery and Annual Reports.

The Council is required to notify the Ministry of Labour every quarter of the number of Accidents reported and to submit after the end of each year an Annual Report.

The Annual Report for 1964 showed that 210 premises had been registered involving 1307 employees. It was estimated that some 60 other shops existed which did not fall within the scope of the Act mainly by reason of their being either family businesses or being premises where only self-employed people work.

RODENT CONTROL

The staff for the joint area for rodent control comprising of Bletchley U.D.C., Newport U.D.C. and R.D.C., once again dealt satisfactorily with all complaints of rats and mice and carried out the twice yearly survey and treatment on the district's sewers.

The foreman rodent operator, Mr. Sharpe, retired during the year and his place was taken by Mr. Meacham who has continued to maintain this efficient service.

PETROLEUM

Forty-seven premises were licensed during the year for the storage of petroleum spirits/mixtures. Modes of storage are underground tanks for spirits and specially constructed can stores for mixtures used in connection with a trade.

One hundred and forty-six visits and inspections were made for the purpose of ascertaining that the conditions attached to licences were being observed.

It was noted that a certain amount of apathy and disregard was displayed at particular premises towards the safe keeping of this potentially hazardous substance and several warnings were given.

Prior to the renewal of licences for 1965, licensees were instructed to have all electrical pumps and equipment inspected by competent electrical engineers and certified as to their proper construction, and that all tanks over 20 years old were to be tested. Ullage tests were carried out on 16 tanks all of which were found satisfactory. Inspections were carried out prior to the renewal of licences and in a number of instances work had to be required or items provided before the issue of a licence.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

1. GENERAL

The number of Measles notifications was less than for previous years and occurred mainly during the summer months.

2. NOTIFICATIONS

Measles	...	...	222	Puerperal Pyrexia	...	4
Scarlet Fever	...	...	17	Meningococcal Infection	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	11	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	2

3. TUBERCULOSIS

Thirteen new cases were notified, six of which were inward transfers. There were no deaths, I am happy to report.

4. CANCER

There were 29 deaths from this disease during the year. Of these 10 were due to Cancer of the lung.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of the provisions as to the health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecute !</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	105	57	6	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	5	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	110	57	6	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4) By H.M. Inspector (5)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...					
(b) Unsuitable or de- fective	14	10	Nil	2	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Other offences against the Act (not including of- fences relating to Out- work)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	14	10	Nil	2	Nil

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK
(Sections 110 and 111)

<i>Nature of Work</i>	<i>Section 110</i>			<i>Section 111</i>		
	<i>No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>Prose- cutions</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel: Making, etc., Cleaning and Washing	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

9

